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ETHERLINE

THE

SCIENCE FICTION

Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 16

29/10/53.

HEADLINES:

SPECIAL ISSUE
OF FILM NEWS.

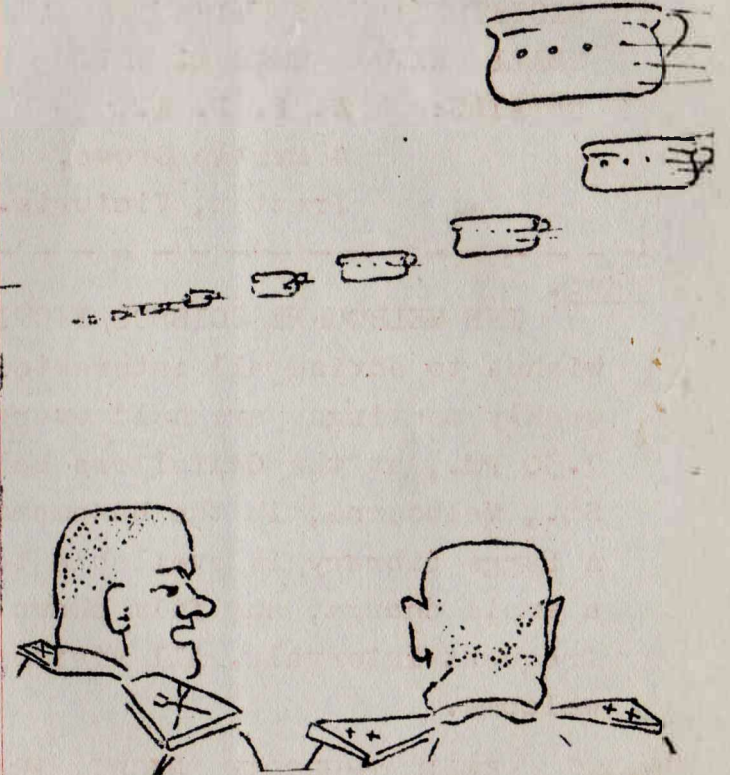
SWEDISH REPRINT
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PROMAGS.

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LATEST OVERSEAS
NEWS.



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H. BOMB

Advt.

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Preston, Victoria.

Advt.

THE MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP wishes to advise all interested persons that weekly meetings are held every Thursday at 7.30 PM., at the Oddfellows Hall, Latrobe St., Melbourne, in the basement Lodge Room . A Large Library is available to members at a small charge, and film shows are held at frequent intervals. All visitors are always welcome.

KEEP THURSDAY NIGHT FREE !!!!!

D O O D L I N G S

From Ken Slater.....

NEW WORLDS now has a Swedish reprint, starting from No. 21. NEW WORLDS 22 due in England early in October, to be followed immediately by Nova Novel 2, BULLARD OF THE SPACE PATROL. SCIENCE FANTASY No. 7 is due October 25th, followed immediately by Nova Novel No. 3, RENAISSANCE.

Cover for SCIENCE FANTASY 7 is by Quinn, from Rayer's "Seek Earthmen No More", and other yarns include M'Intosh's "Beggars All" (recently in Mag. of Fantasy & Science Fiction), a new one from a female Canadian authoress, Gene Lees, another new writer in Francis Richardson, and old favourites, Burke and E. C. Tubb.

NEW WORLDS 22 has a Mars-From- Space cover by Quinn. Lead story is a 19,000 worder, "This Precious Stone" by H. J. Murdoch. Others include "All Glory Forgotten" by Bulmer; "Museum Piece" by Christopher; "The Perfect Secretary" by Burke; "Only an Echo" by Barclay; and an article, "Radiac" by John Newman.

NEW WORLDS 23 has as lead "Starvation Orbit" by James White, and cover again by Quinn.

Sidgewick and Jackson has announced the next 3 selections in its SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB. For Sept/Oct., TOMORROW SOMETIMES COMES by F. G. Rayer ; Nov/Dec., MINIMUM MAN by Andrew Marvel; Jan/Feb 1954, NO PLACE LIKE EARTH, edited by John Carnell.

A readable pocket Book has just been issued . RESURGENT DUST by Rolf Garner, published by Hamilton and Co., priced at 1/6 stg. This is a change from the usual run-of-the-mill stuff issued in pocket book form

Fantastically yours,
Kayeffess.

SYDNEY JOTTINGS

From Brian Finch.

The Scientific and Imaginative Film Society will soon be ready to function. Preliminaries are almost completed, and Don Lawson, organizer of the S.I.F.S., reports that the registration of the Society as a film exhibitor has been accepted by the N. S. W. Film Council, The State Film Centre of Victoria and the National Library. Don says he is waiting replies from the Trustees of the Public Library of N. S. W. concerning use of their Lecture Theatre, and the N. S. W. Film Council for permission to use the projector installed in the Theatre.

The Thursday Night Social Evening continues to thrive. New members trickle in from time to time and a new arrangement has been made for the dispensing of supper whereby there is plenty for all. Supper is now served by the Ladies Committee, while everyone else remains seated. The Chess Tournament is now in full swing, and with everybody 'mad with the chess', boards and chessmen are produced on the slightest provocation..... at the clubrooms, in the homes of fans, in milk bars and cafes. The first Christmas Guessing competition has been completed, being won by energetic fan, Bruce Purdey. (No one can say we don't get anything out of fandom these days). By common consent, a second competition will be held. No definite news on the Convention site as yet, but we hope for some soon.

Brian Finch.

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR A FANZINE ?

A. F. P. A. welcomes articles, stories, news or reports of your group's doings, and will find an outlet for them. Send it to us, and see it printed

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Edgar R. Jarrold advises that the magazine of the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau (The Australian Flying Saucer Magazine) will be delayed on it's November issue awaiting important news from overseas. It will appear a week or so later than usual, but the February issue will come out on time.

Gladys Fabun of the RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST, has given A. F. P. A. via Kevin Wheelahan, rights to reprint material from the DIGEST. So look out for some really terrific articles in QUESTION MARK.

Mr. C. E. Hurst advises that we may have a report on the recent DIANETICS CONVENTION in the United States very shortly.

THE CROZIER CORROBOREE

On the 23rd, 15 fans and femmes gathered at 6 Bramerton Rd, to give a practical exposition of the amount of gas that can be generated by a few drops of ale. Present were Mr & Mrs. Santos, Mr & Mrs. Latimer Mr., Mrs. & Miss Walker, Race Mathews and Geraldine McKeown, Kevin Wheelahan, Mervyn Binns, Keith McLellan, Harry Brook, Bob McCubbin and our host, Ian Crozier. There was a highly successful auction and much conversation, stimulated by various eatables and drinkables. Ian took his coffee and some beer up his sleeve, a conjuring trick which led to some objurgations. McCubbin and Brook staged an eating competition, and Bob stayed the course better.

A very good time was had by all, and it augurs well for future gatherings, which will be held every month.
ARMAK.

F I L M N E W S

Among the new films which have been announced are two from United Artists. PHANTOM FROM SPACE, starring Ted Cooper and Rudolph Anders. Produced by Lee Wilder it is something after the style of Rocketship XM, and if nothing else, will provide some light relief.

The second one from this company is RIDERS TO THE STARS starring Richard Carlson and William Lundigan, Dawn Addams and Martha Hyers, in color. Production is by Ivan Tors, and directed by Richard Carlson. This should be the best of the two, as the team of Tors & Carlson seems to be going places.

A Technicolor fantasy, SON OF SINBAD starring Dale Robertson, Sally Forrest and Vincent Price, should be of interest to the "Arabian Nights" fans, as will the production of DECAMERON NIGHTS, being three stories from Boccaccio's novel of the same name. This one has a more impressive line-up of stars in Joan Fontaine & Louis Jourdain, with Mike Frankovitch as producer.

WAR OF THE WORLDS has been mentioned before, also the Abbott and Costello opus.

A new Abbott and Costello, ABBOTT AND COSTELLO MEET DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE (what a mouthful!) is scheduled for early release in Australia, and should be of some interest to those who like their humor in with horror.

THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS, the Bradbury yarn, stars Paul Christain, Paula Raymond and Aussie Cecil Kellaway, produced by Jack Dietz.

The other Bradbury, IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE will be here shortly, and this stars Richard Carlson, Barbara Rush and Charles Drake. It is a 3D production, produced by Will Allard.

A Russian fantasy, SADKO, will be released here in Australia at some time in the future, but at the moment, nothing more is known about it.

THE NEANDERTHEL MAN, starring Robert Shane, Doris Merrick and Richard Crane, is a fantasy on early man,

From P. 16

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUIDED MISSILE by Kenneth Gatland, being an account of the application of the guided missile to space travel. Published by Iliffe, no price given.

It looks as if the boom in hard cover publishing is over, as quite a few of the books mentioned in earlier editions of ETHERLINE have been cancelled, and/or put back untill 1954. As we receive further information on this, it will be passed on.

Rumor has it that BEYOND, the fantasy companion to GALAXY has started a British reprint, also IF Worlds of Science Fiction. No confirmation, but the source is reliable. More news later.

A different kind of technical book is V 2 by Maj. General Dornberger, formerly of the Peenemunde Rocket Station. Published by Hurst & Blackett, it is priced at 15/- stg.

I.J.C.

ADVT.

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M A G A Z I N E R E V I E W S

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE: 190 pp. Digest size. No illos. Printed on fair quality paper. Editor: SAM MERWIN. Publisher: LEO MARGULIES for King Size Publications. Bi-Monthly. 50 ¢.

This new offering is really good. One is attempted to say "With Merwin at the helm, how could it fail". Certainly, Merwin did more for the Thrilling pubs in his short stay in the editorial chair, than any other editor in the game - and not excluding JWC either ! It is not surprising, therefore, that the first issue of FANTASTIC UNIVERSE is a real winner. It comes closer to its aim - "to give... the greatest possible variety within the entire range of fantasy and science fiction", than even the vauntedly adult Boucher - McComas mag., to which - in interior format - it bears a most striking resemblance.

A magnificent near-Bonestellian cover is a feature of the pioneer issue, and, if the contents page hadn't listed Alex Schomburg as the cover artist I'd have sworn it was old Chesley himself !

Merwin has achieved a really excellent balance with the fantasy and stf, and the lead novella is about the oddest mixture I've ever come across. The title is "Nightmare Tower", and is by new author Jaques Jean Ferrat, and highlights the fiction in this issue. It involves extra-terrestrial invasion against Earth and Mars, ESP, and a really human love story, which has undertones of Philip Jose Farmer. In fact, the styles are remarkably similar, but - I hesitate to make the obvious suggestion. A very fine yarn, indeed.

E. Hoffman Price has offered a straight out-&-out fantasy in "The Fire and the Flesh", the story of a man who fell in love with a woman who lived in a volcano. There's far more to it than that of course, especially when one considers that the woman is the

volcano..... but that's getting you confused..... read it, and see whether you like it. This reviewer didn't.

A. Bertram Chandler has "Viscous Circle", which is typical Chandler, and highly interesting. A new slant on the old time paradox full marks Bert. The shorts are numerous, numbering ten, and an article on space travel by Fletcher Pratt. Maybe he needed the cash quick, huh? There's an oh-so-Bradburyish Bradbury yarn, "Time in the Flight". Good as usual, but boy, does Ray milk those plots dry !!!

Arthur Clarke has an amusing three pager that offers a point for inter-dimensional worlds, but the honours must go unconditionally to Eric Frank Russell for a truly brilliant 5 page piece, "It's in the Blood". I doubt whether I've ever read any story which is so disturbing and yet so beautifully artistic for many years.

Roger Dee has a wonderfully whacky satire, "The Minister Had to Wait", Milton Lesser also titivates the funny bone with "Finders Keepers", It got me from the first paragraph - "Eddie Amhurst watched the scissors get up from the dresser and march across the room....."

Average short items by Derleth, Long (which is a bit too long), Henderson, Dick, and a reprint from NEW WORLDS, "Of Those Who Came", by George Longdon, but it's well worth the reprint.

Book reviews round off the issue. All together a very good issue, but is it worth the 50¢ tag? I don't think so. Either the publishers are out to milk the readers (they've no art expenses, remember, and only 30 more pages than GSF or ASF), or the editor is wary of financial failure. If he keeps that 50¢ tag on the mag, it WILL be a failure.

LJH.

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION No. 36

Cover by Davis is second of the Space Flight

series. Two shorts stand out, "Lone Wolf" by Eric Storm, which shows that when there are only square holes vacant, it is desirable to be a square peg.

"The Lonliest World" is another sound story by J. F. Burke. The balance, "The Tree" by Brian Berry, "Planet of Change" by John Christopher, and "My Name is Ozymandias" by Martin Jordan, are good enough, but not inspired.

T. Santos.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES BRE 21

All stories in this issue had the same fault-- a good idea, but poor execution. Fritz Leiber's "You're All Alone" could have been another SINISTER BARRIER, but it missed badly. Two other shorts complete the line-up. "The Broken Doll" by Paul Fairman was good but it could have been better. "Author Unknown" by Albert Bernsen. Ugh!

T. Santos.

O U T N O W ! ! ! !

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MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP MEETINGS

15/10/53

Bob McCubbin was in the chair, 16 members being present. The meeting was unusually quiet - the only news was QUESTION MARK 2. Read it and find out for yourself !

The Astronomical Society will allot dates for visits to the Observatory next January.

Tony Santos brought a girl-friend- but parked her in an inconspicuous corner. Don't know whether he was wise or careful.

Don Latimer is binding the library material, and doing a very good job. (Free Ad).

22/10/53.

Bob McCubbin in the chair, 6 present. Jack Evans is back from Woomera, where the ARGUS sent him to see the A Bomb tests. Jack will write about his impressions in the next QUESTION MARK.

Reference was made to the valuable publicity in the Malian Press and POST. Bob McCubbin complains that his typing finger is nearly worn out, and the amount expended in buying and posting POST's has put him deeply in the red.

The poor attendance was no doubt due to the wettest October on record - over two inches of rain this week (Sydney knows what that feels like), and the party at Crozier's tomorrow night. The fans must be saving their strength.

ARMAK.

F O R S A L E

Copies of the Currawong Novels, PRELUDE FOR DEATH, by Vol Molesworth, and FROM EARTH TO MARS by J. W. Heming, priced 1/6 each. Apply to A.F.P.A. Preston.

W A N T S E C T I O N

Bob McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Gve, Hawthorn East, Vic. wants SKYLARK 3, by E. E. Smith; the B.R.E. ASTOUNDING for January, May, June, July 1940, March 1941. Must be in reasonable condition.

Kevin Wheelahan, 90 Monash St., Sunshine, Vict., requires U.S. GALAXY Vol. 1 No. 1, and any other editions. Send list and state prices asked. Also wanted, the Malian Press edition of THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by R. Heinlein.

The Editor, ETHERLINE, requires ETHERLINE 4.

Ian J. Crozier, 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield, Vic.. wants FANTASY FICTION Vol. 1 No. 2, IF Vol 1 Nos.1 & 2, and any copies after Sept. 1952, all of which must be in good condition.

Roger Dard, 232 James St., Perth, W.A. requires AMAZING QUARTERLY, Fall, 1933. U.S. ASTOUNDING Sept 1930; August, 1931; February, 1933; March, 1935. FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, March 1953. FANTASTIC No. 3. MARVEL May 1940. SCIENCE FICTION October, 1940; March 1941. SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY Spring, 1943. FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES August, 1940.

Will buy or trade.

M A L I A N P R E S S

Malian Press have advised us that the next three stories to be issued in their AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION series are as follows:

ELIMINATION by John W. Campbell Jnr.

DANGER MOON by James MacCreigh.

VEILED KNOWLEDGE by Edwin James.

MAGAZINE REVIEW

ASTOUNDING BRE September, 1953.

This is the first Astounding I have read for a considerable time, so I might be a little spoiled by reading mags like SPACE and GALAXY, but I think it a bit tough when you have to wade through an average story constituting 1 part of a 4 part serial, taking up 60% of the magazine. The serial is Hal Clement's "Mission of Gravity", and to most ASTOUNDING fans, it will appeal, because it rambles on in the usual style explaining everything that happens in detail.

The Earthmen have made friends with the tiny inhabitants of a world on which a spaceship has been stranded with important data on board. It has been trapped at the pole of the planet, by the terrific gravity, but they hope to get to it with the help of the tiny creatures. That's about as far as they got and it took up more than half the issue.

Three shorts make up the rest of the issue, the best being "No Place Like Home" by Lester del Rey. It is a convincing story of two designers of spaceships having a slight difference of opinion.

"Settle to One" by Charles Dye and April Smith is on the much hackneyed theme of a woman from another world, on which there is a shortage of men, coming to recruit males.

"Family Resemblance" by Alan E. Nourse presents the theory that men are descended from pigs, instead of apes.

I hope the next issue is a lot better than this, for they will have to look up to regain the popularity they had before the advent of GALAXY and SPACE. But the change to a more complete issue of the U.S. edition will boost the sales of the BRE.

Mervyn Binns

GLOBAL ROUND - UP

From Our Correspondents

First item on the book front is Bodley Head's announcement that they will publish Wilson Tucker's THE LONG, LOUD SILENCE in November, priced at 8/6s.

Weidenfeld and Nicholson announce the early publication of PRIZE STORIES OF SPACE AND TIME, edited by Donald Wollheim. According to the blurb issued, these stories represent the best fifteen Stf. chosen by a renowned jury of America's leading editors and writers. Priced at 10/6 stg, no date has been given.

A new fantasy by Neil Bell, WHO WALK IN FEAR, is to be published by Alvin Redman this month, at 10/6 stg. Made up of three stories, it is based on one theme, terror.

A new translation of the Arabian Nights, the first for over 50 years, A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS, by Professor A. J. Arberry, is to be published by Allen and Unwin priced at 15/- stg.

A humorous fantasy, FULL MOON AT SWEATENHAM, by J. K. Stanford, is to be published by Faber and Faber at 15/- stg. This is a hilarious account of the near future, centring around the rise and fall of the 'Bookmaker's Government'.

A biography, WILLIAM HERSCHEL by J. B. Sidgwick, will be published by Faber and Faber priced at 12/6 stg. This should be a 'must' on all stf fans bookshelves, for Herschel, more than anyone else, did more to widen the horizons of Man's universe.

Longmans Green & Co. announce CELESTIAL MECHANICS by W. M. Smart, priced at 70 /- stg, to be out in November. This treatise on the classical theories of the Solar System, plus a section devoted to the theory of precession and mutation, should be a must if one can afford it.

Another technical book, THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE

EARTH AND PLANETS, by Gerard F. Kuiper, was issued on September 11th by Cambridge University Press, priced at 64/- stg.

The second volume of SPACE KINGSLEY'S ANNUAL, edited by E. Player, was published by Sampson Low on September 1st, priced at 5/- stg. Another juvenile, THE FLYING SAUCER by John Sylvester, is due from the firm of Ward Lock shortly, priced at 5/- stg.

On the American book front, THE STOLEN SPHERE by John Keir Cross, a juvenile, was issued by Duttons, priced at \$ 2.75.

THIS ISLAND EARTH by Raymond F. Jones was published by Shasta, priced at \$ 3.00.

Murray Leinster's SPACE PLATFORM was published in pocket book form by Pocket Books, Inc., priced at 25¢. A new Conklin, THE SUPERNATURAL READER, came out last month, edited by Groff and wife Lucy. It is priced at \$ 3.95, and contains 349 pages.

A new Eric Frank Russell, SENTINELS FROM SPACE was published by Bourgey & Curl, priced at \$ 2.75.

Latest addition to the ranks of pocket books, THE WAR OF THE WORLD by H. G. Wells is out priced at 25¢, published by Pocket Books Inc., 180 pages.

We have received publishers plans for stiff books up to March, 1954. Here are books not mentioned before: CUCKOOS IN ARCADIA by Denis Wray, a fantasy of sorts, priced at 10/6 stg, and published by Staples Press.

THE AMAZON'S DIAMOND QUEST by John Russell Fearn, No. 3 in the Master Science Fiction Series, at 8/6 stg, from World's Work. Due November.

QUEEN SHEBA'S RING by Rider Haggard, priced at 8/6 stg, from MacDonald & Co., in November.

THE HUMANOIDS by Jack Williamson, priced at 9/6 stg, from Museum Press in November.

SENTINELS FROM SPACE by Eric Frank Russell, at 9/6 stg, from Museum Press in March, 1954.

GATEWAY TO TOMORROW edited by John Carnell, at 19/6 stg, from Museum Press in February, 1954.

FROM P. 6

produced by Aubrey Wisberg and Jock Pollexfen. A musical fantasy, THE 5000 FINGERS OF DR. T will be the first release of these films in Australia. A Stanley Kramer production, this alone should ensure that it will be a quality production. Starring Peter Lind Hayes, Mary Healy and Hans Conried, it is a colour, wide screen stereo sound film, and produced by Stanley Kramer.

Another Cinecolor production, ALADDIN AND HIS LAMP, starring Patricia Medina, and is a fantasy on the lines suggested by its title. Produced by Walter Wanger for Allied Artists.

Allied Artists also put out FLIGHT TO MARS, in Cinecolor, starring Margurite Chapman, Arthur Franz, and Cameron Mitchell. Produced by Walter Mirisch.

I. J. C.

MAGAZINE REVIEW

AMAZING STORIES BRE No. 21

This is your dish if you enjoy half-neckid wimen on covers. The cover illo is for and like "Victims of the Vortex" by Clinton Ames. It stinks.

"The Man in the Moon" is certainly not Mack Reynold's finest, but it is the best thing in this issue. "

"The Metal Man" by Robert Moore Williams is a fair offering. The rest, "They're Alive on Mars" by Paul Lourman, "All You do is Tranz the Frammis" by Seldon Walters, and "One Leg is Enough" by Kris Neville are all below par.

Tony Santos.

The Book Listing is suspended this issue, while a new, complete, up-to-date list is prepared. If you require any of the books, write to us for the suppliers name.

A host of new pocket books have arrived in the last fortnight, with magazines interspersed. The new and current novels include BEYOND HUMAN KEN by Judith Merrill at 12/-, STAR MANS SON by Andre Norton at 12/-, INVADERS OF EARTH by Groff Conklin, at 13/3, and STRANGERS FROM SPACE by Hazel Adair & Ronald Marriot at 13/3.

ASTOUNDING BRE September arrived, priced at 1/3, AUTHENTIC 36, 2/- and PLANET at 1/3 to hand.

Here is a list of the PB's available, all priced at 2/3:

EMPIRE OF CHAOS by H.K.Bulmer.
GALACTIC INTRIGUE by H.K.Bulmer.
RESURGENT DUST by Rolf Garner.
HOUSE OF ENTROPY by Roy Sheldon.
DIMENSION OF HORROR by S.J.Bounds.
ANOTHER SPACE, ANOTHER TIME
by H.J.Campbell.

Scions. ODYSSEY OF NINE by Vargo Statten.
SCOURGE OF THE ATOM by Volsted Grid-
ban.
MAGNETIC BRAIN by Volsted Gridban.
THE DUST DESTROYERS by Volsted Grid-
ban.

Milestones. THE WALL by Charles Grey.
FUGITIVE OF TIME by V. Gridban.
DYNASTY OF DOOM by Charles Grey.
TORMENTED CITY by Charles Grey.
PLANETOID DISPOSALS by V. Gridban.

Astron del Martia. SPACE PIRATES
INTERSTELLAR ESPIONAGE
DAYN OF DARKNESS.

Curtis. BEYOND ZOROASTER
TRIPLANET.
FUTURISTIC SCIENCE STORIES No. 12
TALES OF TOMORROW No. 8.

M. R. Binns.

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